

ILLUSTRATION OF "OLD AGE" IN THE ENGLISH PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS

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Abstract: This article devoted to describing phraseological units and proverbs expressing old age. There are phraseological units with different components which gives the central meaning to the idiomatic expressions: somatic, zoonimic, anthroponic, religious, ethnic.

Key words: biblical, proverb, idiom, longevity, chronological.

Age is the duration of the period from the moment of birth of a living organism to the present or any other specific point in time.

Usually, the word "age" refers to the calendar age (passport age, chronological age), which does not take into account the factors of the body's development. The observed differences in the individual characteristics of the development of the organism from the average indicators served as the basis for the introduction of the concept of "biological age", or "age of development"

Person age is the number of years he/she has lived to a certain point. There are chronological, biological, social and psychological ages. The main age periods are childhood, adolescence, youth, maturity, old age and longevity.

Age exists simultaneously as an absolute, quantitative concept (calendar age, time of life from birth or from the moment of conception) and as a stage in the process of physical and psychological development (conditional age). The conditional age is determined by the degree of development, the current stage in the development process and depends on the adopted system of periodization, on the principles of differentiation of stages of development.

The division of the human life cycle into age categories has changed over time, it is culturally dependent, and is determined by the approach to setting age limits. As I. S. Kohn pointed out, in order to understand the content of the age category, first of all it is necessary to distinguish the main reference systems in which science describes the human age and, outside of which, age categories do not make sense at all.

The first frame of reference is individual development (ontogenesis, "life cycle"). This frame of reference defines such units of division as "stages of development", "ages of life", and concentrates on age-related properties.

The second frame of reference is age—related social processes and the social structure of society. This frame of reference defines such units of division as "age strata", "age groups", "generations", and cohort differences are one of the areas of research set for it.

The third frame of reference is the idea of age in culture, how age—related changes and properties are perceived by representatives of socio-economic and ethnic groups, one of the research directions given to it is age stereotypes and the so-called "age rituals".

Old age is the period of a person's life from the loss of the body's ability to procreate to death. It is often characterized by deterioration of health, mental abilities, and fading body functions. Some age classifications are divided into several shorter periods of human life: old age, old age and senile age, according to others, old age is not considered as part of old age, which occurs at 75-76 years.

There are biblical phraseological units describing old age: *as old as Adam* means extremely old. However, idiom *the old Adam* denotes human nature lacking in grace; humans in their unredeemed state.

In biblical studies idiom *as old as Methuselah* also explicate extremely old age. This idiom is popular not only Christianity but also in other religions. Methuselah — one of the forefathers of mankind, famous for his longevity: he lived 969 years. The oldest person whose age is indicated in the Bible. Notably, both bibleisms have component-anthroponym.

Idiom *December and May* illustrates family with old aged husband and young wife. December is the last month of the year associated with cold weather, winter and May is the time of spring, flourishing nature. So, names of month can demonstrate age of the person.

Somatic components illustrate old age in the English phraseological units: *gray hairs*. Most often, graying of hair is a sign and a direct consequence of aging of the body. With age, the function of pigment-forming cells gradually decreases and the production of melanin stops. The time when this natural process begins is genetically inherent in every person. It is believed that Caucasians have gray hair at the age of about 34 years (plus or minus 10 years), Asians – at 30-34 years, and representatives of the Black ethnic group have an average age of silver hair appearance of 43 years plus or minus 10 years.

English proverbs with names of animals can demonstrate old age. For instance, *an old dog barks not in vain* used to highlight the significance of recognizing and appreciating the wisdom and experience of older individuals, as they frequently possess valuable perspectives and rationales for their actions.

Proverb *an old dog will learn no new tricks* expresses the notion that an individual who is elderly or accustomed to a particular approach may resist or be unwilling to embrace a new way of doing things. Idiom *an old fox* – sly person, in various cultures, the fox is recognized as a clever and crafty creature, frequently serving as a metaphor for a cunning individual who accomplishes objectives through guile rather than sheer force. *Old cat* demonstrates grumpy, nasty old woman. Thus, idiomatic expressions denoting old animal suggest solid experience, cunning, dexterity, peevishness.

Merry England, phraseological unit, describes old, kind England. A term used to describe England during the Elizabethan era, often regarded as a splendid period for the nation, characterized by strength, prosperity, contented citizens, and a vibrant atmosphere of singing, dancing, and joyful music.

Idioms *old lady* and *old man* illustrate aged people, correspondingly aged woman and aged man. Furthermore, they possess another meaning. *Old lady* can refer to mother, *old man* – to “captain of the ship” or “commander of the regiment” or “head of the family”.

From the analysis of English proverbs and idioms can be seen that old age implicate the following: human nature lacking in grace, solid experience, cunning, dexterity, peevishness, splendid period for the nation, profession or specialization, marital status.

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